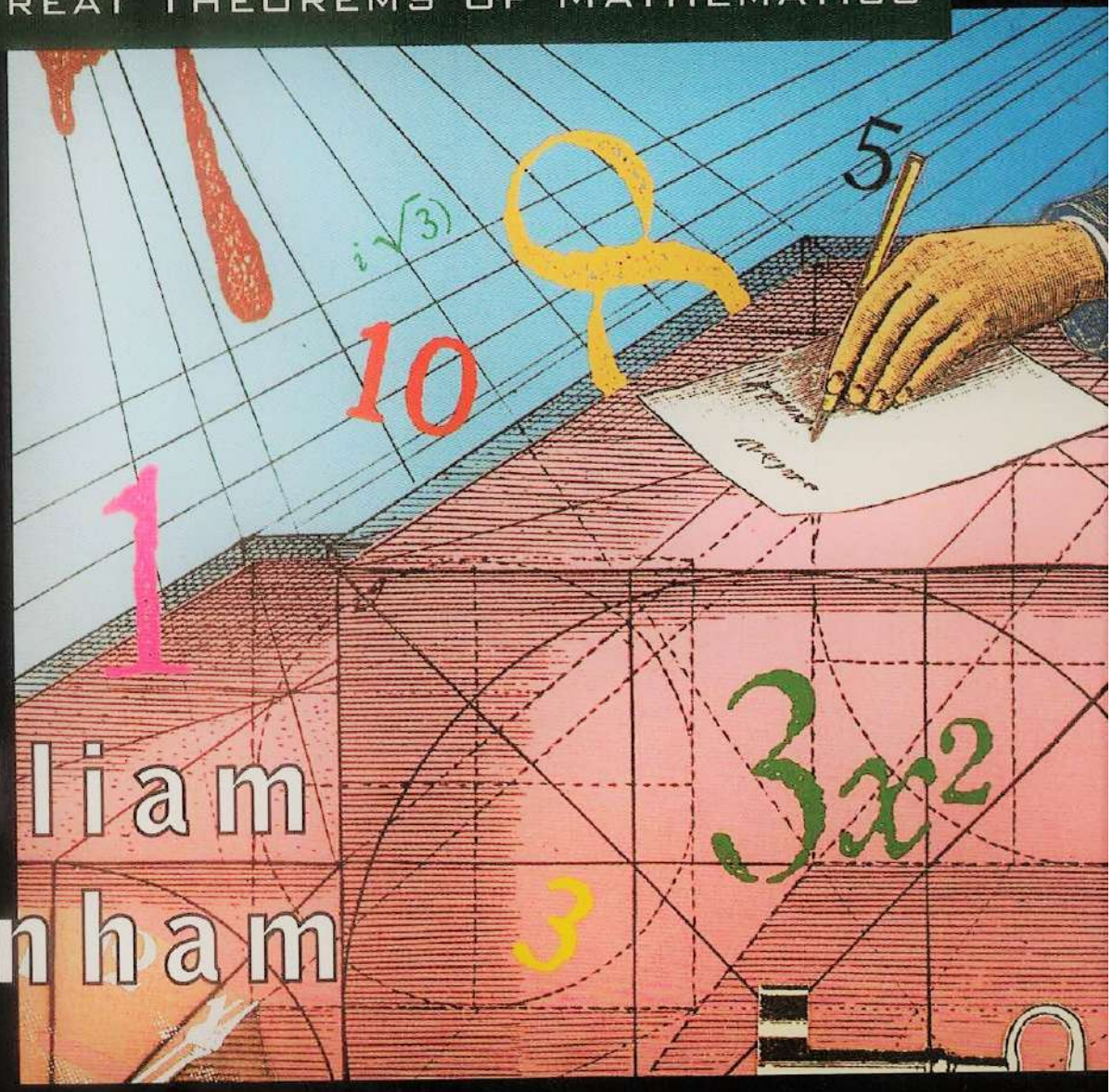
Journey through Genius

THE GREAT THEOREMS OF MATHEMATICS



william dunham

"An inspired piece of intellectual history"
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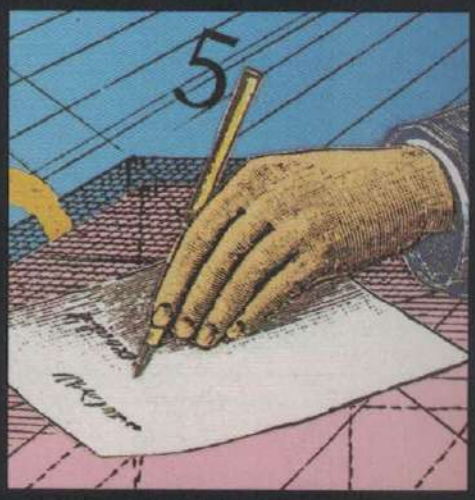
"It is mathematics presented as a series of works of art; a fascinating lingering over individual examples of ingenuity and insight. It is mathematics by lightning flash." —Isaac Asimov



Like masterpieces of art, music, and literature, great mathematical theorems are creative milestones, works of genius destined to last forever. Now William Dunham gives them the attention they deserve.

Dunham places each theorem within its historical context and explores the very human and often turbulent life of the creator—from Archimedes, the absentminded theoretician whose absorption in his work often precluded eating or bathing, to Gerolamo Cardano, the sixteenth-century mathematician whose accomplishments flourished despite a bizarre array of misadventures, to the paranoid genius of modern times, Georg Cantor. He also provides step-by-step proofs for the theorems, each easily accessible to readers with no more than a knowledge of high school mathematics.

A rare combination of the historical, biographical, and mathematical, *Journey Through Genius* is a fascinating introduction to a neglected field of human creativity.

"Dunham deftly guides the reader through the verbal and logical intricacies of major mathematical questions, conveying a splendid sense of how the greatest mathematicians from ancient to modern times presented their arguments."
—Ivars Peterson, author of *The Mathematical*

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A PENGUIN BOOK
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U.S. $17.00
CAN. $19.00

Cover design by Georgie Stout
Cover Illustration by Marc Yankus

ISBN 978-0-14-014739-1
51700>
9 780140 147391
EAN